

REMARKS

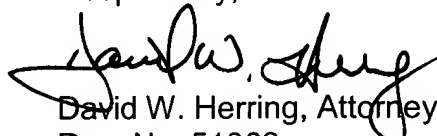
This is in response to the Office Action dated April 7, 2004. The Office Action first objected to the Abstract. The Office Action next rejected claim 1-5, 8-10, 15-19, 22-24, 29-32 and 35-37. The Office Action also objected to claims 6-7, 11-14, 20-21, 25-28, 33-34 and 38-41 stating that these claims would be allowable is written to incorporate the limitations of the claims upon which they depend. Claims 6-14, 20-28 and 33-41 remain under consideration.

In response to the Office Action, applicants have provided a replacement Abstract conforming to the proper format for that section. Applicants have also canceled claims 1-5, 15-19 and 29-32. Applicants have also rewritten claims 6, 20 and 33 in independent format to incorporate all limitations of the claims upon which they previously depended. Claims 8-10, 13-14 have been amended to depend upon claim 6, claims 22-24, 27-28 have been amended to depend upon claim 20, and claims 35-37, 40-41 have been amended to depend upon claim 33.

As a result of these amendments, and as suggested by the Office Action, newly independent claims 6, 20 and 33 are now allowable as they now incorporate all limitations of those claims upon which they previously depended. It follows that claims 7-14, 21-28 and 34-41, which depend upon claims 6, 20 and 33, respectively, are allowable as being dependent upon allowable base claims.

For the foregoing reasons, applicants respectfully request that all objections and rejections in the Office Action be removed and that all claims remaining under consideration be allowed.

Respectfully,


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